

REMARKS

Response to 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 57, 59, 61, 64-73, 113, 115, 119-121, 124-132, and 136-141, as being obvious over JP 02-043275, (hereinafter "JP '275" or "the JP '275 publication") in view of Rizika et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,650,213 (hereinafter "Rizika" or "the Rizika patent") under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner also rejected claim 62 as being obvious over of JP '275 in view of Rizika , Shimomura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,354,369 (hereinafter "Shimomura") and Bondurant, U.S. Patent No. 5,268,025 (herein after "Bondurant") and further in view of Yoshida et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,985,484 (hereinafter "Yoshida" or the "Yoshida patent.").

The Examiner also maintained the rejections of claims 63, 81-104, 114, and 116 as being obvious over JP '275 in view of Rizika, Shimomura, and Bondurant, and in further view of WO/95/14248.

The Examiner also maintained the rejections of claims 117, 118 and 122-123 as being obvious over JP '275 in view of Rizika, Shimomura, and Bondurant, and further in view of JP 02300253 (hereinafter "JP '253").

Claim 60 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in light of the foregoing amendments to the claims and Applicant's arguments below.

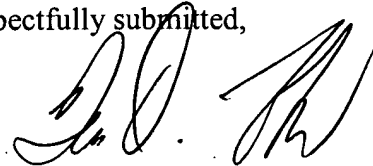
Independent claims 57, 81, 117 and 118 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 60. Claims 60, 122-127 and 139-141 have been cancelled. Applicant also cancelled from this application claims 74-80 and 105-112 which were previously withdrawn from the application due to a restriction requirement. A set of claims showing the amendments and the new claims are attached.

As noted above, Applicant has amended all of the independent claims of the pending application to incorporate the limitations of claim 60, which was objected to in the final Office Action. All of the remaining claims depend from one of the four independent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims 57, 59, 61-73, 81-90, 92-104, 113-121, and 128-138 are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 57, 59, 61-73, 81-90, 92-104, 113-121, and 128-138 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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